Earthquake
Incident Annex VIII
Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan

LEAD AGENCY: Division of Emergency Management, Department of Local Affairs

SUPPORTING AGENCIES: Governor's Office, Personnel & Administration, Corrections, Labor & Employment, Military and Veteran Affairs, Natural Resources, Public Safety, Transportation, Education, Human Services, Red Cross, Salvation Army, COVOAD, and Private Sector.
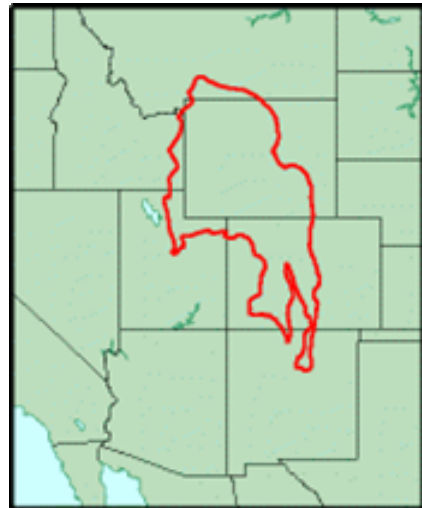
I.   **PURPOSE**

This incident annex has been prepared to ~~ensure~~ facilitate a coordinated response and assign responsibilities by state agencies to requests from local jurisdictions to reduce potential loss of life and to or quickly restore essential services following an earthquake.

II.   **POLICIES**

Following the issuance of a local emergency declaration, the Governor may issue a state declaration, which may make response and recovery funding available as well as other state resources.

III.   **SITUATION**

A.   The Southern and Middle Rocky Mountains extend from the mountainous parts of central and western Wyoming and northeastern Utah, through the rugged mountains of central Colorado, southward into extreme north-central New Mexico. Large, damaging earthquakes in this region are uncommon, but significant historical earthquakes have caused damage. The largest earthquake in the Southern and Middle Rocky Mountains occurred on November 8, 1882, and, although poorly located, probably was in north-central Colorado, west of Fort Collins and northwest of Denver. The earthquake occurred before the development of seismometers, but it had an estimated magnitude of 6.6 and was felt throughout most of Colorado and in adjacent parts of Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, and Nebraska. The most seismically active part of the Southern and Middle Rocky Mountains is in northwestern Wyoming near Yellowstone National Park, where ongoing volcanic activity is responsible for the spectacular geysers and other unique geologic features in the park. On June 30, 1975, a magnitude 6.4

earthquake shook the park, caused rockfalls and landslides, and affected the eruption patterns of some geysers. Magnitude 3-4 earthquakes are not uncommon in the region, and on average, a magnitude 5 earthquake, which can cause minor to moderate damage occurs every 4-5 years.

B.   Faults: Most of the major geological structures in the Middle Rocky Mountains formed when the Rocky Mountains were uplifted between about 35 and 75 million years ago. Younger geological events later modified the landscape, and fault activity is particularly common in the volcanically active area of Yellowstone National Park in northwestern Wyoming. A modest number of geologically young faults have been recognized in the Southern and Middle Rocky Mountains, but few have been studied in detail, and none are directly associated with significant historical earthquakes. Geological evidence indicates that the Teton fault in northwestern Wyoming and the Sangre de Cristo fault in south-central Colorado and north-central New Mexico are two of the more active faults in the region.

IV.   ASSUMPTIONS

A.   See Basic Plan

B.   An earthquake could occur at any location in the state causing injuries, death and building damage and destruction.

C.   A major earthquake will cause cascading events such as fires, hazardous materials incidents and others.

V.   CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

First response to an earthquake will be by local responders, when the event is so large that their local resources are unable to handle it, additional assistance may be requested by through the declaration process. Such assistance, when authorized, will be provided by state agencies operating under their own authority, or as part of an effort coordinated by the Division of Emergency Management operating on behalf of the Governor. The Governor may request assistance from the federal government if the capabilities and resources of both local and state governments are exceeded.

VI.   RESPONSIBILITIES

A.   Governor's Office:

1.   Authorize state active duty status for use of Colorado National Guard personnel to provide lifesaving assistance, if necessary.

        2.   Following the state disaster statutes, make monies available through the state disaster fund or other funds to provide for basic recovery of essential services.

        3.   Activate the Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan.

        4.   Request federal assistance, when needed.

A.   Division of Emergency Management:

        1.   Coordinate state response to requests for assistance from local jurisdictions.

        2.   Maintain communications with Governor's office, other state agencies and local jurisdictions regarding the status of response and recovery efforts.

        3.   Activate and staff the State Emergency Operations Center.

B.   Department of Human Services/American Red Cross/Salvation Army

        1.   DHS - Administer assistance programs including Individual & Family Grants Program.

        2.   ARC/SA - Provide shelters and provisions for stranded people in accordance with internal procedures.

C.   Department of Military and Veteran Affairs

        1.   When activated, provide air reconnaissance and rescue.

        2.   When activated, provide personnel for debris removal, search and rescue, and other assistance that may be tasked.

D.   Department of Transportation

        1.   Provide assistance by providing barricades, debris removal and road repair as directed.

        2.   Maintain communications and advise dispatch of current conditions in all areas of the state - these reports will be relayed, as needed, to DEM.

        3.   Provide engineers to Damage Assessment teams.

E.   Colorado State Patrol

        1.   Establish traffic control on state highways.

        2.   Maintain communications and advise dispatch of current conditions in all areas of the state - emergency reports will be relayed, as needed, to DEM.

        3.   Assist in evacuation of stranded motorists.

        4.   Preserve law and order.

F.   Other State Agencies

        Provide support as requested by the Division of Emergency Management.

VII.   ESFs that are likely to be involved in an earthquake emergency are: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 -- agency involvement will vary with the circumstances of each incident.